

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 through 17. (Canceled)

18. (New) A mechanical joint comprising:

a first shaft having a mating groove formed thereon;

a second shaft coupled to the first shaft such that the first and second shafts are slidably but non-rotatably connected;

a housing into which one of the first and second shafts is rotatably supported;

a boot seal having a coupling end, a flange seal, an annular lip and a body portion, the coupling end being disposed about the second shaft and including an annular clamp flange, the flange seal being configured to be received into the mating groove and resiliently engaging the first shaft; and the annular lip having a first portion that extends generally radially outwardly of the flange seal and a second portion that is coupled to a distal end of the first portion and which extends circumferentially about the first shaft, the second portion terminating at a location that is axially spaced apart from the housing, the body portion being disposed between the coupling end and the flange seal and including a plurality of convolutions; and

a boot clamp received in the annular clamp flange and non-rotatably coupling the coupling end to the second shaft;

wherein sealing engagement between the flange seal and the first shaft is obtained solely by constriction of the flange seal about first shaft.